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United States Department of Agriculture,

U.S. BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY.

22 Seed and Plant Introduction and Distribution,
54 WASHINGTON, D. C.

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BULB DISTRIBUTION

This box contains tuberose and gladiolus bulbs. Though neither the tuberose nor the gladiolus forms a true bulb, the underground portion of the former being a tuberous rootstock and of the latter a corm, the term "bulb" is applied to these parts in the trade and is used here in the trade sense. In this box the smaller, roundish bulbs are those of the gladiolus; the others, those of the tuberose.

TUBEROSE.

The tuberose (*Polianthes tuberosa*) is a summer flowering plant that has long been popular in gardens, although its use as a florist flower has considerably declined during the last few years. The flower stalk appears in late summer or early fall and bears a number of waxy white double flowers that possess an exceedingly heavy odor. They are indeed so fragrant that some people are unable to endure them.

Although in some parts of the South the tuberose bulbs remain in the ground without injury the year round, it is a tender plant in the North and the bulbs should not be planted until the ground is warm. Planting time will vary from January to June, depending upon the latitude and season. The best guide is the condition of the soil and weather. In the extreme North the bulbs must be started indoors and transplanted when warm weather appears. The tuberose grows slowly, and in the short season of the extreme Northern States will not bloom before frost unless started indoors.

A moist garden loam, well enriched with stable manure, is suitable. The soil should be rich to give the best results. Give the bulbs a shallow covering with no more than 1 or 2 inches of light soil; some even recommend planting with the tip of the bulb exposed. If the weather is dry, water the bulbs regularly and abundantly to encourage rapid growth. To preserve the bulbs for another year they should be lifted before frost and stored in a warm, dry place.

GLADIOLUS.

This is one of the most popular of summer flowering bulbs, the bright flowers making a fine display during July and August. The

flowers brighten up the border and are especially valuable for cutting. It is also one of the easiest of bulbous plants to grow, thriving in nearly every part of the United States.

In the Northern States the bulbs should be planted as early in spring as the ground can be worked, while in the South they may be planted any time from December to June, depending on local conditions. Plant about 2 inches deep in rich, well-tilled soil that has been manured the *previous year*. It is best not to apply *strong, fresh*, stable manure at the time the bulbs are planted, but the application of fresh hard-wood ashes before digging the ground is recommended. Water should be supplied in abundance during the season of growth and clean culture is essential to success.

The tall spikes will generally require a support which can be conveniently given by tying each spike to a slender stake, or, if the bulbs are planted in rows, by stretching a string or wire on each side of the row from a stake at each end.

In the South the bulbs may be left in the ground until they become crowded, although they are said to deteriorate under this treatment. From the latitude of Virginia north it is safer to take the bulbs up each fall and store them in a cool, dry place. At Washington the bulbs are not always killed if left out, but growth made the following year is small and the plants are useless.

For further information in regard to the varieties of tuberose and gladiolus, as well as culture and handling, see "Encyclopedia of American Horticulture," or "Henderson's Handbook of Plants."

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